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THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

MISSIONS

The War and Missions

Some aspects of the immediate effect of the war on the various mission fields are given in the January, 1915, number of the *International Review of Missions*.

In Japan both Japanese Christians and missionaries feel that the struggle between nations bearing the Christian name will make it more difficult to commend the gospel in Japan, especially since the national aspects of religion play so important a part in Japanese life.

In China no marked change in the conditions of missionary work has resulted from the war. Some feeling has been aroused by the Japanese seizure of the Tsinaufu railway for military purposes; yet for the great masses of China the war is too remote to cause practical concern. The most serious effect of the war is in regard to finances. European missions have experienced difficulty in regard to remission from home. "Orders have been received from home to postpone all capital outlay on buildings and to practice the strictest economy."

In India the writer predicts that both racial and religious problems will emerge entirely altered in their complexion, because the present crisis has thrown Indian Britain and colonial Hindu, Moslem, Sikh, Buddhist, and Christian into new relations with one another. The German missions have had to submit to certain restrictions for military reasons and have been to a large extent cut off from communication with their home base. An appeal has been sent to missionaries of all nationalities for contributions in aid of missions affected by the war.

Missions in Turkey for the time being are hopelessly at a standstill. Hospitals

have been seized by the government or closed for lack of funds. Many mission schools have been shut down because the native teachers have been called to arms. The scarcity of food together with the heavy war taxation has caused great suffering, so that relief work has become necessary. The closing of banks and the impossibility of negotiating foreign drafts has made the maintenance of the work difficult. When the Turkish government announced the abrogation of foreign capitulations, thus bringing all foreigners under Turkish jurisdiction and abolishing the consular courts and the foreign post-office, it rendered the legal position of missionaries and missionary property uncertain.

Africa presents one of the greatest tragedies of the war. "The greater part of the continent has heard the clash of arms; natives of Africa as well as European administrators and colonials are fighting on both sides." The younger missionaries of various nationalities have been called to bear arms, leaving their stations inadequately manned. In some cases mission schools and colleges are being used for military purposes. "There is evidence, however, that the authorities on both sides are prepared to treat missionaries belonging to hostile countries with consideration."

Jubilee of the China Inland Mission

The *Missionary Review of the World* for April announces the fact that during this year the China Inland Mission will complete its fiftieth year of work. This remarkable mission finds itself, at the close of fifty years, with a past that it can regard with satisfaction and gratitude and with an equipment for the future which promises increasing success.

The figures quoted in illustration of its growth are those for the year 1913; in this year 54 new workers were added to the mission and at its close the active missionary staff numbered 1,076. The total staff of the mission, including paid Chinese helpers, numbers close to 2,500 persons.

American Baptists in India

The conference of the American Baptist Telegu Mission which met in Ramapatnam from December 28, 1914, to January 5, 1915, passed the following resolution:

That in view of the great war in which so many nations are now engaged in Europe and elsewhere, the Conference of the American Baptist Telegu Mission records its deep appreciation of the many benefits accruing to the people as a whole under the just and progressive policy of the British government in India; that the Conference records its satisfaction at the genuine and widespread expressions of loyalty which have been evoked among all classes of people during this great crisis; and that the conference assures the government that, while the principles of neutrality forbid all American citizens from active participation in other than general relief funds and Red Cross work, every effort will be made to promote hearty loyalty and co-operation among the people in general within the borders of the mission, and in particular among the Christians whom God has given to our care.

The Rockefeller Foundation and Missions

For more than a year a special commission, appointed by the Rockefeller Foundation, has been investigating health and medical conditions in China. As a result of this examination extensive plans are being made to improve the medical hospitals of China. "This will include aid for two or more medical hospitals; the strengthening of the

staffs of mission and other hospitals; assistance in the establishment of two modern tuberculosis hospitals, and the establishment of six \$1,000 scholarships to enable Chinese nurses to obtain training in this country." It is the hope of the foundation so to educate the native talent that the Chinese may be able to take a leading part in instructing their own people in medical science.

Missions in Turkey

In the *Congregationalist* for April 15 there is printed a review of Secretary Burton's report of the missionary situation in Turkey. In general the report is very encouraging. The great majority of missionaries are safe and at work; the relations with the civil authorities are for the most part cordial, while the conditions caused by the war give promise of new and larger opportunities for mission work. While there was some interruption of communication in the beginning of the war, at present letters and papers are reaching their destination with unexpected regularity.

From Urimiah in Northwestern Persia comes a far less encouraging report. The Kurdish tribes of the Armenian mountains, stirred into a fanatical frenzy because of the war, have descended into the valley at the foot of the mountains where they have hunted down and tortured Christian victims. The return of a Russian force was instrumental in saving thousands of Syrian lives. The writer feels that strong influence should be brought to bear from Constantinople upon the Kurdish tribes lest in the spring they return to the excitement of murder and plunder. If recent newspaper reports are true, the fear of the writer was well founded, as massacres are again reported by the Kurdish tribes.